

PATENT
450100-03276**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 18 are independent.

II. DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Claims 1-19 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of co-pending Application No. 09/862,656 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,617,518 to Kuwamoto et al. (hereinafter, merely "Kuwamoto"). Applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer, thereby obviating the rejection.

CONCLUSION

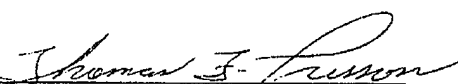
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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